



wttw | wfmt

# A Year of Stories

2016 ANNUAL REPORT





*Celebration 2016: Chicago in Bloom – Dan Ponce, Anthony Ponce, Newton Minow, and Phil Ponce*





# From The Chairman Of The Board

## Dear Donors and Members,

Once again in Fiscal 2016, it has been my honor to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for WTTW and WFMT. As ever, it has truly been a privilege to collaborate with such an accomplished and committed group of hard-working people who contribute their considerable talents, valuable time, and generous financial support to ensure that this trusted and treasured cultural institution will be around for generations to come.



Jim Mabie

We are deeply grateful to you, and to all of the individual donors, corporations, foundations, and production partners who supported our efforts this year (beginning on page 26), as well as those of you who have donated vehicles or made arrangements to remember us in your estate plans. You are all investing in something that enriches our community in unimaginable ways, and will stand the test of time.

As you learn about history and architecture via that great new Geoffrey Baer multi-platform special, listen to live classical music concerts on WFMT and WFMT.com, sample restaurants you heard or read about on *Check, Please!* and its website, take part in civil discourse as result of *Chicago Tonight's* stellar reporting, or watch video online covering every topic under the sun, remember...it is YOU who make it all happen, for your Chicago community and beyond.

My thanks to you all.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Mabie', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Jim Mabie  
Chairman of the Board  
Window to the World Communications, Inc.

Geoffrey Baer, Conductor Thomas Wilkins, Lady Mary from *Downton Abbey*, *Check, Please!* host Catherine De Orio







# From The President and CEO

## Dear Donors and Members,

As you will discover in subsequent pages of this report, Fiscal 2016 has been an exceptionally busy and eventful year for WTTW and WFMT. Our local, national, and international presence is the strongest in our history, with our vast audience accessing our quality content across an ever-increasing variety of platforms, anywhere and anytime, that nobody could have envisioned even a decade ago.



Dan Schmidt

In this election year, the role of public media seems clearer and more vital than ever before: to uncover the truth; to tell the stories that nobody else is telling; to be a calm and impartial voice breaking through the cacophony of partisan noise on both sides of the aisle; to provide in-depth coverage and analysis of the issues most important to our diverse community; and to help our audiences make sense of the wealth of information they are getting, so they will make informed decisions inside the voting booth.

And now more than ever, we need public media and classical radio to connect us to what is best in us, to help us define who we are, why we're here, and how we can have a positive and lasting impact on our world. To educate our children, expand our horizons, embrace diversity, learn from our history, and understand our place in the ecosystem. To inspire the next generation of performing and visual artists, astronomers, historians, economists, architects, writers, archeologists, and more.

We are always striving to fill that need, and it wouldn't be possible without the continuing support of you, our donors and members. On behalf of all of us at WTTW and WFMT, my heartfelt thanks for allowing us to share all of the stories you are about to read with all of you, day in and day out.

On a personal note: my late father Karl Schmidt, whom we lost this year at age 93, spent his entire 70+-year career in public media, arriving long before there was an NPR or a PBS. He was a seminal figure in the industry, and his recorded voice is still heard today on Wisconsin Public Radio. I have been proud to follow in his footsteps, and can think of no better tribute to him than ensuring that we stay true to our mission and, to quote our friend and colleague Newton Minow's famous 1961 address to Congress (as relevant today as it was then), to continue to "uphold and protect the public interest."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Schmidt", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Schmidt

President and CEO

Window to the World Communications, Inc.







# Stay Connected

## Broadcast

**WTTW** is one of the Midwest's premier public media organizations, dedicated to bringing Chicago and the world together through exclusive, original content spanning local, national, and international interests, including arts and entertainment, news and public affairs, nature and science, technology, history, how-to, kids, and more. WTTW is composed of **WTTW11**, **WTTW Prime**, **WTTW Create**, **WTTW WORLD**, **WTTW Vme**, and **wttw.com**.

**WTTW11** reaches an audience of 1.6 million over a four-state area each week, making it one of the most-watched public television stations in America. WTTW11 can be viewed with a free TV, over-the-air antenna setup in high definition by tuning to channel 11-1. Cable and satellite viewers can locate WTTW11 in high definition on their on-screen menu.

**WTTW PRIME** is our "prime time all the time" channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-2 to find WTTW Prime. WTTW Prime is on Comcast digital cable channel 370 and on RCN channel 37.



WTTW Kids character Nature Cat



*Great Performances: Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga – Cheek to Cheek LIVE!*

**WTTW CREATE** is our how-to and lifestyle programming channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-3. WTTW Create is on Comcast digital cable channel 369 and on RCN channel 38. WTTW Create programming airs from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

**WTTW WORLD** features public television's signature documentary, science, and news programming complemented by original content from emerging producers. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-3. WTTW WORLD is on Comcast digital cable channel 369 and on RCN channel 38. WTTW WORLD airs from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am.

**WTTW VME** is our Spanish language channel. Free TV, over-the-air antenna viewers can tune to channel 11-4. WTTW Vme is on Comcast digital channels 368 and 629, Dish Network channels 846 and 9414, DirectTV channel 440, and RCN channel 39.

The full schedule for all channels is available online at [wttw.com/schedule](http://wttw.com/schedule).

## On Demand

You can find WTTW on Demand on Comcast.



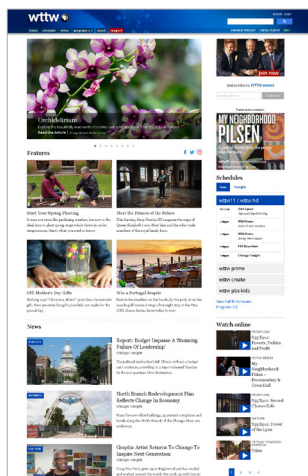
# WTTW

## Digital

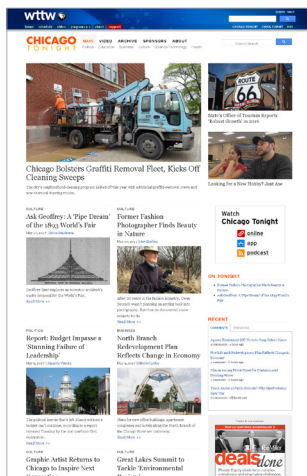
The vast and varied digital content to be found on **WTTW.com** and **WFMT.com** is inextricably woven into the fabric of the audience experience. On WTTW.com, each microsite, video, web feature, and image gallery goes far beyond television and radio to help us do what we do best: tell compelling stories in more breadth and depth than anyone else.

Almost every series, special, segment, or initiative has an equally rich and immersive digital component:

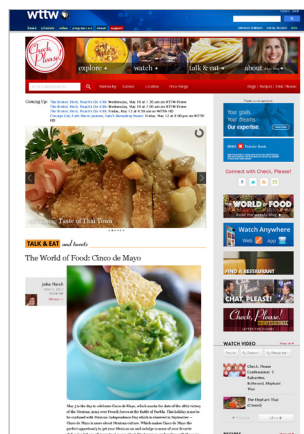
*Chicago Tonight's* website, updated continually throughout each day, provides breaking news stories and fascinating multimedia features about everything from the local and national political scene, to arts and culture, to science and technology, to health, to our education system. There a searchable archive of stories featured on the program, video of every segment, viewable any time, and a free daily podcast.



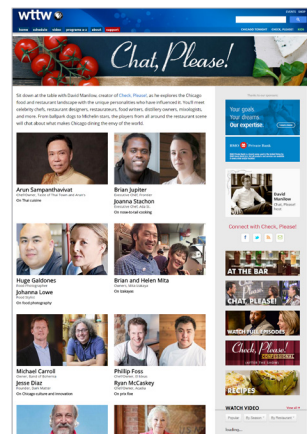
WTTW.com



Chicago Tonight



Check, Please!



Chat, Please!

The content-rich *Check, Please!* website is an essential destination for anyone who loves to dine out in the Chicago area. The many restaurants reviewed over the series' 15 seasons are catalogued by cuisine, location, and price range, and each segment is available for viewing. Users can also find recipes, tweets from diners sharing their experiences, and of course, a place to apply for one of the coveted reviewer slots on the program.

The website for *Jay's Chicago* features video segments organized by category, a place to learn about the show and its producer, Jay Shefsky, a place to offer feedback, and more – the perfect spot to enjoy “stories of life in Chicago.”

A number of WTTW series are digital-only and evergreen, including:

*Central Standard: On Education*, which follows five local eighth graders on their challenging quest to get into the city's selective enrollment high schools;

*FOODPHILES*, which goes behind the scenes to profile Chicago area restaurateurs, chefs, baristas, gin enthusiasts, and others who feed you;

*The Good Stuff*, a monthly series hosted by YouTube star Craig Benzine, who explores things that make our lives better;

*Chat, Please!*, in which *Check, Please!* creator David Manilow interviews notables in the Chicago area's culinary scene, to



gain insights on different aspects of the dining experience. (See October 2015 for more.)

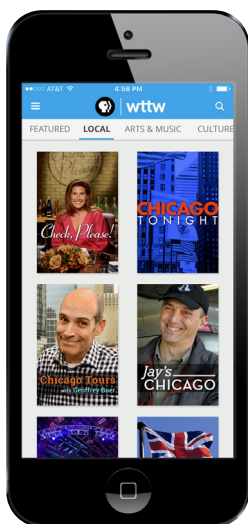
WTTW has made the development of web-exclusive content a top priority, in its continuing effort to explore the new and evolving role of public media in the digital age.

## APPS

**WTTW Apps** are another way to access and engage with WTTW content. In addition to watching WTTW and PBS programming via our mobile video portal at [video.wttw.com](http://video.wttw.com), viewers can also access local and national video content via the PBS mobile app. Visit [wttw.com/mobile](http://wttw.com/mobile) to learn more and to download our apps.

## Over-The-Top Content Streaming

PBS and WTTW programming are available through a variety of over-the-top hardware, software, and video content solutions including Roku, Chromecast, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Apple TV/iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, and more. Visit [wttw.com/anywhere](http://wttw.com/anywhere) for information on all the ways to access our content.



Video app



Chicago's South Side



Nature Cat

## Social Media

### WTTW Facebook

[facebook.com/wttw11](https://facebook.com/wttw11)

### Central Standard Facebook

[facebook.com/centralstandard312](https://facebook.com/centralstandard312)

### Check, Please! Facebook

[facebook.com/checkpleaseWTTW](https://facebook.com/checkpleaseWTTW)

### Chicago Tonight Facebook

[facebook.com/chicagotonight](https://facebook.com/chicagotonight)

### Geoffrey Baer Facebook

[facebook.com/geoffreybaerWTTW](https://facebook.com/geoffreybaerWTTW)

### Jay's Chicago Facebook

[facebook.com/jayschicagoWTTW](https://facebook.com/jayschicagoWTTW)

### My Chicago Facebook

[facebook.com/mychicagoWTTW](https://facebook.com/mychicagoWTTW)

### WTTW Twitter

[twitter.com/wttw](https://twitter.com/wttw)

### Central Standard Twitter

[twitter.com/centralstand](https://twitter.com/centralstand)

### Check, Please! Twitter

[twitter.com/checkpleaseDave](https://twitter.com/checkpleaseDave)

### My Chicago Twitter

[twitter.com/mychicagoWTTW](https://twitter.com/mychicagoWTTW)

### WTTW YouTube

[youtube.com/wttwchicago](https://youtube.com/wttwchicago)

### Central Standard YouTube

[youtube.com/user/centralstandardWTTW](https://youtube.com/user/centralstandardWTTW)

### WTTW Flickr

[flickr.com/photos/wttwchannel11](https://flickr.com/photos/wttwchannel11)

### WTTW Tumblr

[wttwchicago.tumblr.com](https://wttwchicago.tumblr.com)

### WTTW Pinterest

[pinterest.com/wttw](https://pinterest.com/wttw)



## WTTW on Twitter



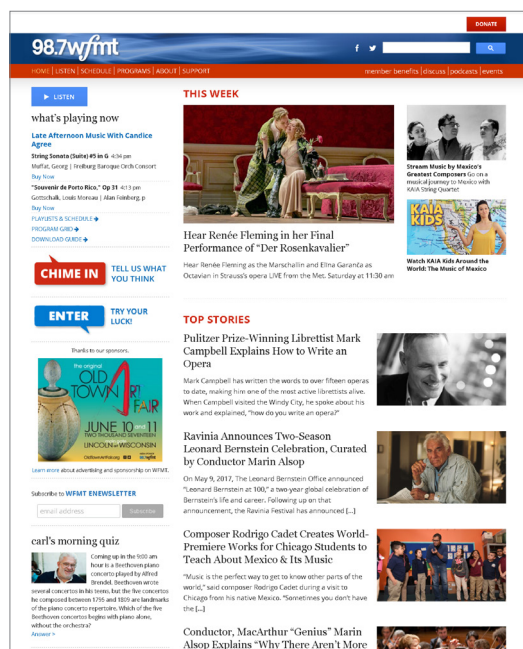


# WFMT

## Broadcast

WFMT is Chicago's classical radio station, committed to providing the best and broadest selection of classical, fine arts, and folk music programming to a local audience via 98.7WFMT and wfmt.com, and to a global audience via the WFMT Radio Network and online at WFMT.com. A classical music force for more than 60 years, WFMT reaches a monthly audience of 350,000 locally as the station presents live concerts and performances, and special broadcasts and interviews with renowned artists from venues around the world.

The **WFMT Radio Network** creates and distributes radio programs on arts and culture to hundreds of radio stations throughout the world – including, most recently, China. Its arts partners include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Poetry Foundation, Salzburg Festival, Shanghai Spring International Music Festival, New York Philharmonic, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Symphony and more than two dozen others. The WFMT Radio Network also



WFMT.com

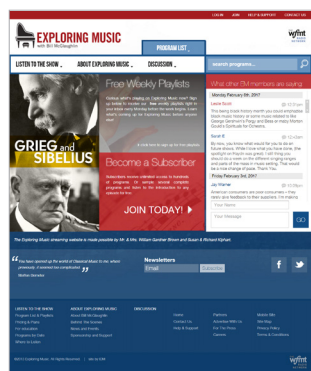
produces original programs such as *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin*, *Fiesta!*, *Relevant Tones* and the *Midnight Special*, and oversees the creation of the Studs Terkel Radio Archive.

## Digital

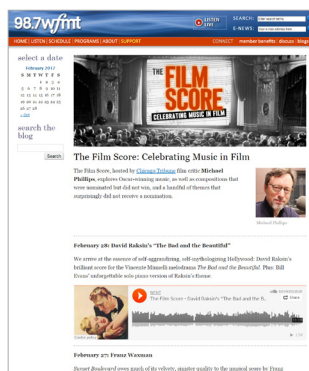
WFMT is reaching larger online audiences around the world than ever before. WFMT.com continues to host a vast library of original streaming audio and podcasts, and engaging content such as:

- interactive polls and quizzes;
- accessible listicles and infographics that make classical music fun and accessible;
- original video and exclusive interviews;
- breaking news about the arts in Chicago and beyond.

Visitors to WFMT.com can also learn explore program information, participate in discussions, and interact with hosts to enhance their listening experience. The station is also seeing an increase in engagement on social media.

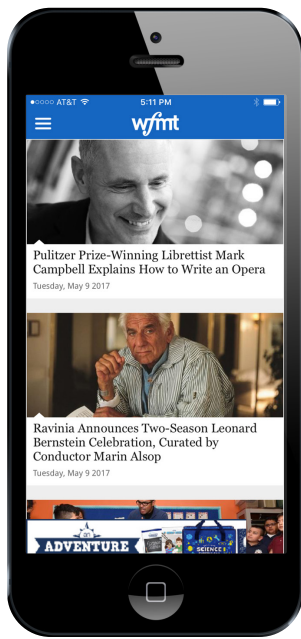


Exploring Music



The Film Score with Michael Phillips webpage



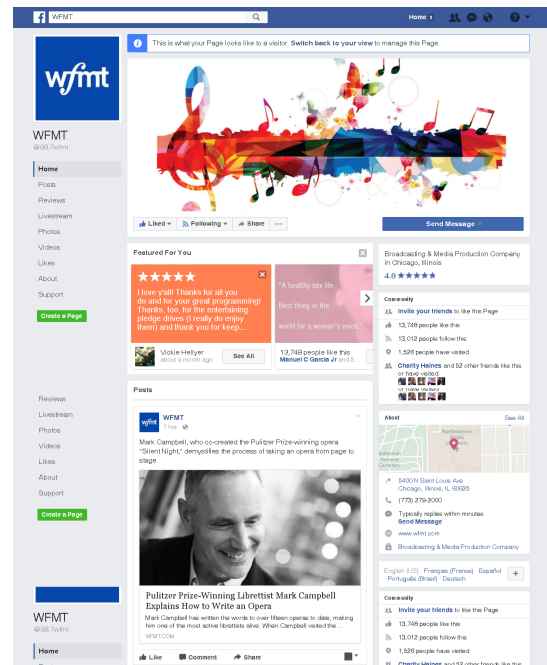


WFMT mobile app

WFMT.com is also home to the successful *Exploring Music* subscription-based website, where fans of the weeknight series can gain access to more than 850 hours of programming produced by series host Bill McGlaughlin.

## APP

The **WFMT App** is the online equivalent of the 98.7WFMT on-air broadcast, and can be accessed anywhere, anytime. Visit [wfmt.com/mobile](http://wfmt.com/mobile) to learn more, and to download the Apple and Android apps.



WFMT Facebook

## Social Media

### WFMT Facebook

[facebook.com/98.7wfmt](https://facebook.com/98.7wfmt)

### WFMT Twitter

[twitter.com/wfmtclassical](https://twitter.com/wfmtclassical)

### WFMT Playlist Twitter

[twitter.com/wfmtmusic](https://twitter.com/wfmtmusic)

### WFMT YouTube

[youtube.com/WFMTChicago](https://youtube.com/WFMTChicago)



Host Tom Bergeron, *A Capitol Fourth*



12

Annual Report • 2016



# July 2015

WTTW's year got off to a rousing start with *A Capitol Fourth*, the live Independence Day celebration from Washington, D.C. Other programming highlights on WTTW included *Kangaroo Dundee*, *Operation Wild*, the Sunday night British drama lineup, and *Shetland*, a new Saturday evening mystery series. *American Experience* recalled the New York City blackout of 1977; *Great Performances* presented *Driving Miss Daisy* with Angela Lansbury and James Earl Jones and a John Williams celebration from the LA Philharmonic with Gustavo Dudamel; and audiences got a unique view of *Humanity from Space*.

*Chicago Tonight's* virtual – and literal – organic garden, *Homegrown*, thrived with help from vegetable-growing staffers, and the successful web initiative offered invaluable tips from expert Jeanne Nolan for those aspiring to get started on their own home gardens, at [wttw.com/homegrown](http://wttw.com/homegrown). Other web stories that month included Harper Lee's controversial sequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird*; Illinois's budget impasse and its possible effects on the state's credit rating; and an examination of why workers sometimes do better outside the office.

The WTTW Great Food Fan Van and WTTW Readers Are Leaders Tour stopped off at many indoor and outdoor venues



*Chicago Tonight* host Phil Ponce and organic gardener Jeanne Nolan



*Great Performances: Gustavo Dudamel Conducts a John Williams Celebration with the LA Phil*

in some underserved areas around the city and suburbs to celebrate summer with young audiences. Kids and families participated in fun games and sing-alongs while the performers promoted good nutrition, active lifestyles, and school readiness.

WFMT presented more live broadcasts from the Grant Park Music Festival in Millennium Park and the Rush Hour Concerts from downtown Chicago, along with a seven-day marathon of works by American composers to celebrate Independence Day. *Best of Studs Terkel* also focused on American composers. The Wednesday night *Carnegie Hall Live* series featured WFMT favorite Thomas Hampson, violinist Gil Shaham, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony, and pianist Andras Schiff. Paolo Pietropaolo brought audiences a new six-part series from Third Coast International Audio Festival, *The Nerve: Music and the Brain*. *LA Opera on Air* returned to the schedule with six operas. Guest conductor Leonard Slatkin paid a visit to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Peter Van De Graaff teamed up with Lawrence Rapchak at North Park Covenant Church to reveal, in an all-day *Immersion* event, some of their favorite classical *Hidden Gems*.

On WFMT.com, the fun quiz “How Hipster is Your Taste in Classical Music?” attracted many fans, along with a story on Jimmy López, composer of Lyric Opera's upcoming new opera *Bel Canto*, premiering in December.





*Great Performances: Driving Miss Daisy*



*Kangaroo Dundee*



*Shetland*



LA Opera on Air: *La Traviata*



*The Nerve: Music and the Brain* host Paulo Pietropaulo



Chicago Symphony Orchestra Broadcasts: Renaud Capucon



Web story on Jimmy López, composer of Lyric Opera of Chicago's *Bel Canto*



Pianist Natasha Paremski,  
Grant Park Music Festival  
on WFMT





# August 2015

As August arrived, WTTW offered up a variety of engaging content to help audiences beat the summer heat. Chief among them: the season finales of *Last Tango in Halifax* and *Poldark* on *Masterpiece*; a two-part drama from the BBC, *A Mother's Son*; Derek Jacobi and Ian McKellan in another season of the Britcom *Vicious*; a behind-the-scenes look at the popular detective series *Foyle's War*; an overview of Ken Burns's *The Civil War* on its 25th anniversary; and concerts featuring Il Volo in Pompeii and the Vienna Philharmonic from Austria's Imperial Schönbrunn Palace.

*Mystery Science Theater 3000* hilariously skewered bad "B" movies from the past, and WTTW traveled across the country to sample *A Few Good Pie Places*. WTTW's digital series *The Good Stuff* explored *The Future of Food* – how climate change and a growing population will change the ways we feed ourselves in the future, and what we might eat. Finally, the three-part *Big Blue Live* examined the miraculous rejuvenation of the once-endangered ecosystem of Monterey Bay, California.

On wttw.com, users were learning about the Chicago Public Schools budget crisis, corporate job losses, and city budget reforms. Also, stories about the odoriferous "corpse flower" at the Botanic Garden generated great interest.



Craig Benzine, host of WTTW's web series *The Good Stuff*



*Poldark* on *Masterpiece*

WFMT's Grant Park Music Festival broadcasts featured special appearances by pianists Natasha Paremski and Inon Barnatan, violinist James Ehnes, and a presentation of Sir Edward Elgar's *The Kingdom*, conducted by Carlos Kalmar. Singers from the Ryan Opera Center, Third Coast Percussion, the Avalon String Quartet, and others closed out the 2015 season of Tuesday afternoon *Rush Hour Concerts*. Baritone Matthias Goerne performed works by Schubert with the CSO under the direction of guest conductor Jaap van Zweden.

On two Wednesday evenings in August, WFMT presented Baroque Unlimited concerts from New York's Carnegie Hall. Jon Tolansky honored Belgian bass-baritone José van Dam with a documentary in celebration of the singer's 75th birthday, and paid tribute to the great operatic soprano Joan Sutherland. A new season of broadcasts from San Francisco Opera began with Verdi's *Rigoletto*, starring Zeljko Lucic in the title role. And as acclaimed Cuban pianist Frank Fernández was preparing in Havana to make his Ravinia Festival debut, he sat down with WFMT for a fascinating and wide-ranging web interview in advance of his visit. Another popular web story: a treatise on the role of women in dance, past and present, from the perspective of five modern practitioners.



**August** 2015



*Last Tango in Halifax*



*Big Blue Live*



*Mystery Science Theater 3000*



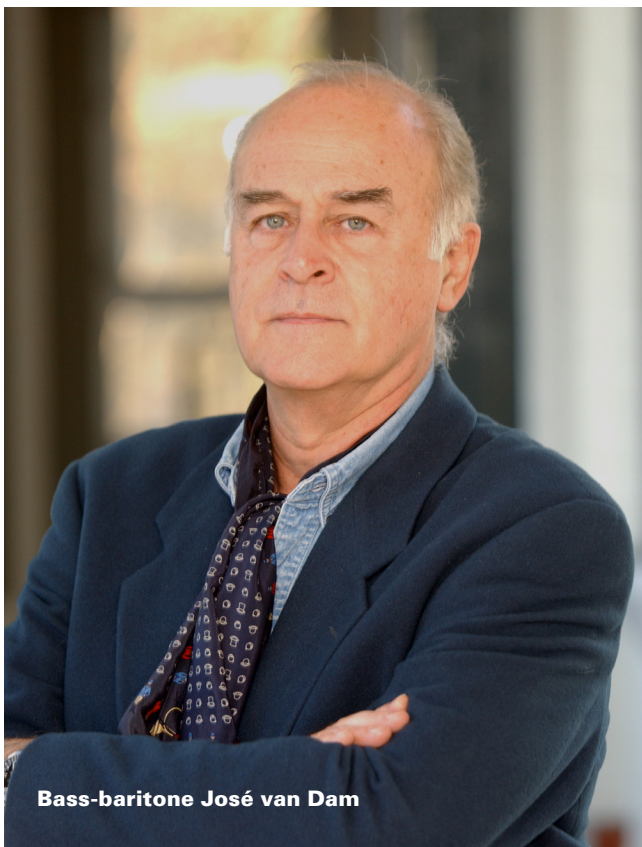
*Foyle's War Revisited*



**August** 2015



San Francisco Opera: Verdi's *Rigoletto*



Bass-baritone José van Dam



Dame Joan Sutherland



*Il Volo*: Live from Pompeii







# September 2015

This month, WFMT entertained an illustrious visitor: Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg. A well-known opera aficionado, Ginsburg joined host Lisa Flynn in the broadcast booth to share some of her favorite music with audiences, and joined singers from Ryan Opera Center in Levin Studio for a discussion and performance on the theme of “Opera and the Law,” which included operatic excerpts with legal scenes, personally selected by the Justice. In web exclusives recorded that day, she listed five operas she felt were important to know and revealed which Puccini heroine is her favorite; and presented a discussion of opera and the death penalty.

Also in September, spurred by the success of The Bach Organ Project the previous year, WFMT worked with Northwestern University professor Stephen Alltop to launch an ambitious 11-concert, 21-hour series, The Bach Keyboard Festival, which included performances of Bach’s works for piano, harpsichord, clavichord, and lute performed by more than 70 musicians. Also notable: on Sundays and Wednesdays throughout the month, WFMT presented six concerts from “the greatest classical music festival on earth,” the annual BBC Proms from



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg guest hosts on WFMT

London.

September on WTTW saw the premiere of a new drama series, *Indian Summers on Masterpiece*, highlighting the fight for Indian independence in the twilight of British rule in 1930s. WTTW’s digital series *FOODPHILES* made its television debut, as did the two-part *Walt Disney: American Experience*, and the three-part biography series *In Their Own Words*. Martin Clunes (*Doc Martin*) played a very different role in *Arthur & George* – Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle. Audiences welcomed a new season of *The Great British Baking Show*, met *Nature’s Miracle Orphans*, and celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of relevant content, including a special website. WTTW.com featured stories on the plastic bag ban in stores, and the battle between the city’s aldermen and police commissioner over increased gun violence.

Also online, WTTW’s *Chicago Tonight* and WFMT each provided a roundup of the city’s most essential arts events and performances for the fall. And as WTTW celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first broadcast, a letter arrived from a local resident, Bud Borg, who claimed to be “one of WTTW’s first volunteers.” He shared his story with *Chicago Tonight* in a nostalgic web feature, which also included rare footage of an early WTTW program featuring Frank Lloyd Wright and Carl Sandburg. Truly “a blast from the past.”



*Indian Summers on Masterpiece*

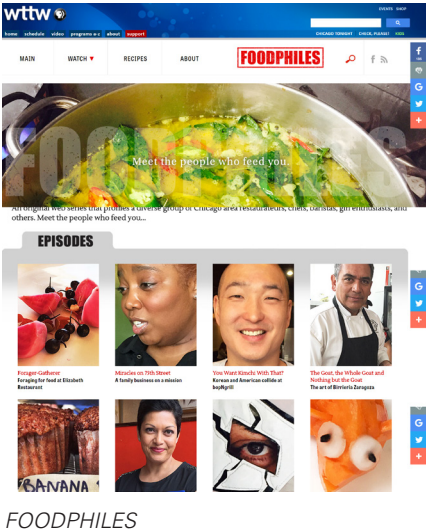




John Zaragoza, *FOODPHILES*



Ilana Regan, *FOODPHILES*



Nature's Miracle Orphans



The Great British Baking Show

**September** 2015



Stephen Alltop, WFMT *Bach Keyboard Festival*



Photo: Todd Rosenberg

*Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park*







# October 2015

This month, WTTW's popular local restaurant review series *Check, Please!* reached an impressive milestone: its 15th anniversary season. Over the years, more than 500 restaurateurs have experienced the "*Check, Please!* Effect," seeing their businesses grow exponentially after their exposure on the program. The website, with its searchable database of restaurants (by cuisine, location, and price range), extensive video, Talk & Eat and Tweets, recipes, and behind-the-scenes images, became an essential destination for local restaurant enthusiasts. Again this season, thousands of people applied to join program host Catherine De Orio as "citizen-reviewers."

Also in October, *Check, Please!* creator David Manilow made his debut as host of a new online conversation series, *Chat, Please!*. Each 4-5 minute webisode featured David interviewing a notable figure or figures in the local dining and culinary scene about their area of expertise. Guests included Lettuce Entertain You founder Rich Melman, restaurant designer Karen Herold, Spiaggia chef Tony Mantuano, and many others. A new webisode was posted each week. *Chicago Tonight* featured a variety of web stories, including a preview of the first Chicago Architecture Biennial; the Barbara Byrd-Bennett



Host David Manilow interviews restaurateur Rich Melman on *Chat, Please!*

scandal and her controversial CPS contracts; and why Illinois was "out of money."

Other notable WTTW premieres this month included the new Chicago episodes of *Antiques Roadshow*, taped in July of 2014; two drama series from the U.K., *Home Fires* and *The Widower*; the lively "food travelogue" series *I'll Have What Phil's Having*; *The Brain with David Eagleman*; two specials for Polish Heritage Month; and *The C Word*, the story of a woman fighting cancer with love and laughter.

WFMT's David Polk and Lisa Flynn traveled to Warsaw, Poland, to bring audiences commentary and performances from all four exciting rounds of the 2015 International Chopin Piano Competition, culminating in a live broadcast of the Winner's Concert on the afternoon of October 21. The third place finisher was 21-year-old Kate Liu, who had appeared on WFMT's *Introductions* series at age 14 while she was a student at New Trier High School in Winnetka.

WFMT also presented a new season of broadcasts from Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; the new series *Song: Mirror of the World with Thomas Hampson*; and several Saturday performances from San Francisco Opera. Online, WFMT also marked Polish Heritage Month with *Polish Composers You Should Know Who Aren't Chopin*; and also shared *8 Tips to Better Your Bach with Masaaki Suzuki*.



Winners of the 2015 Chopin International Piano Competition





Home Fires on Masterpiece



I'll Have What Phil's Having: Italy



Antiques Roadshow: Chicago



The Brain with David Eagleman





Photo: Todd Rosenberg

Lyric Opera of Chicago: *Cinderella*

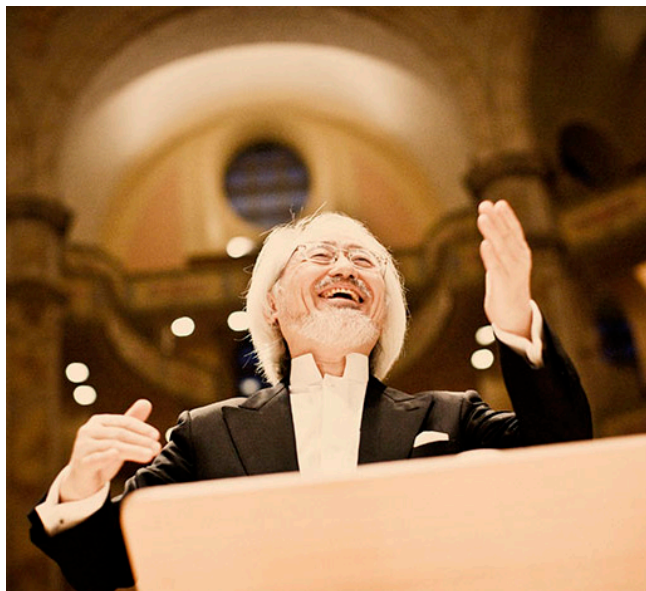


Photo: Marco Borggreve

Conductor Masaaki Suzuki



Pianist Kate Liu, bronze medalist at the 2015 Chopin International Piano Competition







# November 2015

November saw the eagerly awaited national premiere of the kids' animated series *Nature Cat*, a co-production of WTTW Chicago and award-winning local producers Adam and David Rudman of Spiffy Pictures. This engaging series, voiced by stars from *Saturday Night Live* and *The Big Bang Theory*, follows Fred, a house cat who transforms into Nature Cat, "back-yard explorer extraordinaire," and with the help of his animal friends, embarks on action-packed nature investigations. The highly interactive website features videos, engaging games, fun do-it-yourself "nature explorer" projects, badges, and much more. The series airs several times daily as part of the WTTW Kids bloc, and can also be accessed via the PBS Kids and *Nature Cat* apps for mobile devices.



*Nature Cat*

Another big WTTW premiere: Geoffrey Baer's latest history/travelogue special and website, *Chicago's South Side*. This cross-platform initiative traced the rich history and culture of the neighborhoods south of I-55 with local residents serving as Geoffrey's informative tour guides, from Ashburn to Auburn Gresham, Hyde Park to Hegewisch, Woodlawn to Washington Park. The website featured a wealth of original content, including an interactive map of the region with links to much more information about each segment, plus numerous web-exclusive videos, images, and a place to watch the program.



*Eddie Murphy: The Mark Twain Prize for American Humor*

A major story that *Chicago Tonight* covered extensively, on-air and online: the highly controversial Laquan McDonald shooting video and its huge repercussions on the Chicago Police Department and State's Attorney Anita Alvarez's office. There were many follow-up stories throughout the year.

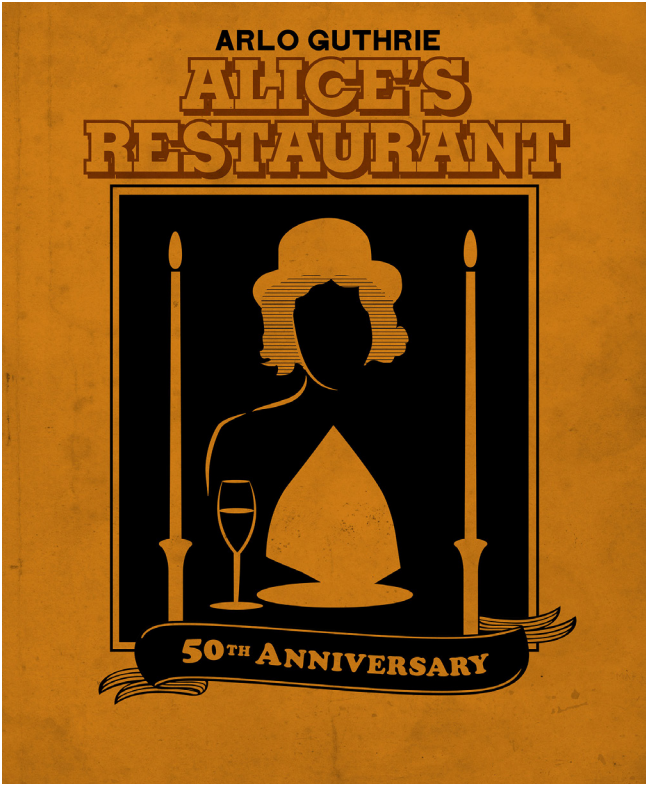
Also of note on WTTW: the music specials *First You Dream: The Music of Kander & Ebb*; the *Alice's Restaurant 50th Anniversary Concert*, and *Great Performances: Chita Rivera – A Lot of Livin' to Do*; special content for Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving; and the 30th annual *Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching* – this year honoring pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade educators.

WFMT commenced an exciting new series: *Taloo*, a four-part celebration of American Indian and Maori music hosted by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. Also, audiences enjoyed a new season of Ryan Opera Center recitals from Levin Studio, highlights from the Glimmerglass Festival, and two Lyric Opera of Chicago opening nights: Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* and Franz Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, starring Renée Fleming. Also, WFMT presented Opera Southwest's production of Franco Faccio's rarely performed *Amleto* (Hamlet), and on WFMT.com, choreographer Twyla Tharp revealed her top 10 tunes over a storied 50-year career.





Great Performances: Chita Rivera – A Lot of Livin’ to Do



Alice's Restaurant 50th Anniversary Concert



First You Dream: The Music of Kander & Ebb





Talao host Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate



Lyric Opera of Chicago: *Wozzeck*



Opera Southwest: *Amleto*



Renée Fleming and Thomas Hampson in Lyric Opera of Chicago's *The Merry Widow*







# December 2015

WFMT ushered in December with a wide variety of musical content for the holiday season, from contemporary works to traditional carols performed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Anonymous 4, the Cathedral Choir of St. John the Divine, Chanticleer, King's College of Cambridge University, and St. Olaf College. In a nod to the past, audiences heard Studs Terkel's *Christmas Memories*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* – all WFMT holiday mainstays. The station rang in 2016 with the *Midnight Special New Year's Eve Special*, as host Rich Warren welcomed Claudia Schmidt & Sally Rogers, Cathy Fink, Anne Hills, Christine Lavin, and surprise guests.

Also notable: Lyric Opera of Chicago's world premiere of Ann Patchett's *Bel Canto*, adapted for the opera stage by Jimmy López and Nilo Cruz, starring Danielle de Niese. The Metropolitan Opera returned to WFMT on Saturday afternoons with Puccini's *La Bohème*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Rossini's *La Donna del Lago* and *The Barber of Seville*. The Chicago Symphony, under the baton of guest conductor Harry Bicket, offered two programs of Baroque (and Baroque-inspired)



Chanticleer



Lyric Opera of Chicago: *Bel Canto*

selections. Kerry Frumkin sat down for a talk with Lyric Opera's Renée Fleming. And the *Song: Mirror of the World* series concluded with segments on the impact of the World Wars on Jewish musicians.

On WTTW, audiences could enjoy music specials from Josh Groban, Celtic Woman, and a group of local "garage bands" of the 1960s and '70s who reunited in WTTW's Grainger Studio as the *Cornerstones of Rock*. The Ides of March, The American Breed, The Buckingham's, The New Colony Six, The Shadows of Knight, The Cryan' Shames, and The Standells performed their greatest hits and jammed together. Also, the six-part series *Ancient Roads: Christ to Constantine* traced the evolution of Christianity; *Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism* told the story of a non-violent revolution that helped to bring an end to Communist rule; and Rick Steves' *European Christmas* celebrated cherished holiday traditions.

Finally, WTTW ushered in the New Year with Michael Feinstein at the Rainbow Room, Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga at New York's Rose Theatre, and blues legends at the White House. And the city welcomed 2016 with, literally, a bang: Chi-Town Rising – a new and opulent event covered on *Chicago Tonight* and online, along with stories on the arrival of medical marijuana in Chicago, a troubling embezzlement at the Field Museum, and city recycling.



**December** 2015



*Rick Steves' European Christmas*



*Chi-Town Rising, as reported by Chicago Tonight*



*Michael Feinstein at the Rainbow Room*





*Live from the Met: The Barber of Seville*



*Higher: Renee Fleming and Patricia Barber Perform the Music of Patricia Barber*



*Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt, The Midnight Special New Year's Eve*



*Studs Terkel's Christmas Memories*







# January 2016

On WTTW, 2016 got off to a roaring start as Benedict Cumberbatch's very contemporary Sherlock Holmes traveled back in time with Dr. Watson in search of *The Abominable Bride*. Then came an eagerly anticipated but bittersweet event: the premiere of the sixth and final season of *Downton Abbey* on Masterpiece. Indisputably the most popular primetime drama series in public media history, the series garnered record ratings once again, attracting a loyal and diverse audience. Screening parties were held all over the country as viewers consumed tea and scones and shared the experience on social media platforms, as online streams of each episode reached an all-time high.

A new and homegrown series arrived that month: *Mercy Street*, set in and around a Virginia field hospital during the Civil War. Also notable: new episodes of *Check, Please!*, *Finding Your Roots*, and *Travel Detective with Peter Greenberg*; a local special celebrating the Stanley Cup-winning Chicago Blackhawks; profiles of Charlie Chaplin and comedian/director Mike Nichols (a WFMT alumnus); a *Nature* examination of *Natural Born Hustlers*; and an *American Experience* treatment of outlaws Bonnie & Clyde. *NOVA* journeyed to Antarctica, and Willie Nelson received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for



*Sherlock: The Abominable Bride*



*Mercy Street*

Popular Song. On the web, *Chicago Tonight* reported on The Shedd's new president, the death of music icon David Bowie, and the "war of words" between Governor Rauner and Mayor Emanuel, and marked the 90th birthday of television pioneer Newton Minow.

Also in January, WFMT kicked off its Arts Month celebration, as each Friday was devoted to exploring the relationship between music and other art forms – painting, poetry, and dance. Online features included interviews with renowned young jazz artist Vijay Iyer, *Mozart in the Jungle* author Blair Tindall, former prima ballerina Sono Osato, and lute player Paul O'Dette.

The WFMT Radio Network teamed up with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music to present the series *Shanghai Spring*, which "threw open the door" between Western and Chinese music. In a related story, WFMT's Seth Boustead and producer Jesse McQuarters also traveled to China for two installments of *Relevant Tones* to highlight new works at the Shanghai Spring Festival.

From Lyric Opera of Chicago, WFMT brought audiences the opening night broadcast of Verdi's *Nabucco*, starring Zeljko Lucic in the title role, and the Saturday afternoon *Live from the Met* broadcasts in January included Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, and Puccini's *Turandot*.





*Mike Nichols: American Masters (with Elaine May)*



*Bonnie and Clyde: American Experience*



*Nature: Natural Born Hustlers*





*Lyric Opera of Chicago Broadcasts: Nabucco*



*Live from the Met: Tannhäuser*



*Live from the Met: The Pearl Fishers*







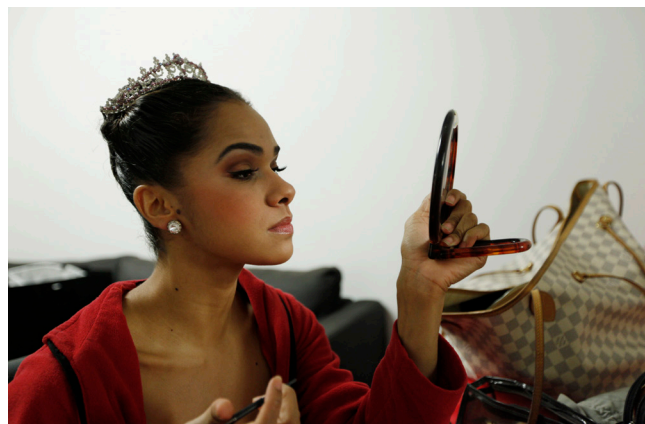
# February 2016

WTTW marked Black History Month with a special microsite and several new programs, including revealing *Independent Lens* segments on trailblazing African American ballerina Misty Copeland and the history of the Black Panther movement; *American Masters* profiles of B.B. King and Fats Domino, and several relevant installments of *In Performance at the White House*. *Phunny Business: A Black Comedy* traced the history of a legendary Chicago comedy club; Daniel Beaty presented his one-man show, *Through the Night*; and much more. A dedicated website listed all the relevant content on WTTW11 and on WTTW Prime 11.2.

Coinciding with the final season of *Downton Abbey*, the traveling – and popular – *Dressing Downton* exhibition arrived at Chicago's Driehaus Museum for a three-month stay, and WTTW and WFMT were able to hold several VIP events, including a preview night with trustees. Guests enjoyed refreshments, a photo op, and a leisurely look at the exhibition plus a Q&A with Jessica Fellowes (show creator Julian Fellowes' niece and author of several books about the series) conducted by Geoffrey Baer.



*Check, Please! Chef's Choice Special* – Tony Mantuano



*Independent Lens: A Ballerina's Tale* – Misty Copeland

*Chicago Tonight* provided extensive online political coverage and candidate forums, along with stories on urban coyotes and the new Jeanne Gang-designed Writers Theatre in Glencoe. Other notable programs on WTTW in February: *Check, Please!* concluded its 15th season with a special "Chef's Choice" installment that the *Chicago Tribune* called "must-see TV for any Chicagoan who dines out." *PBS NewsHour* covered the Iowa Caucuses and the New Hampshire Primary; *American Experience* explored *The Murder of a President* and *The Perfect Crime*; *American Masters* celebrated singer-songwriter Carole King; and WTTW crowned the winner in the annual online Viewers' Choice Bowl: the most popular program of 2015 as selected by viewers was, to nobody's surprise, *Downton Abbey*.

As the month progressed toward the Academy Awards, WFMT presented an Audio Film Festival, with *Chicago Tribune* film critic Michael Phillips hosting a daily cross-platform series, *The Film Score*. Throughout "Oscar" weekend, WFMT focused primarily on film music and musicians associated with Hollywood. *Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin* also focused on film music and also observed Black History Month.

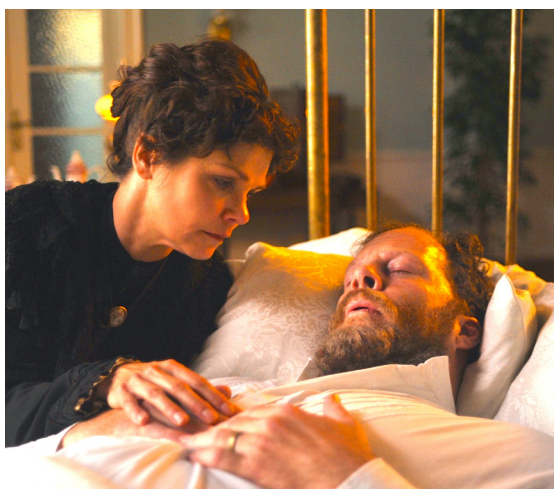
Audiences got a front row seat to opening night of Lyric Opera of Chicago's production of Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*, and *Live from the Met* featured several operas on Saturdays, including Sondra Radvanofsky starring in Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*. To herald Chinese New Year, *Shanghai Spring* presented a famous Chinese concerto, *The Butterfly Lovers* for violin and orchestra.



**February** 2016



*Carole King: American Masters*



*Murder of a President: American Experience*



*Chicago Tonight: architect Jeanne Gang and artistic director Michael Halberstam of Writers Theatre*





*The Film Score with Michael Phillips on WFMT*



*Lyric Opera of Chicago: Der Rosenkavalier*



*Live from the Met: Maria Stuarda*







# March 2016

This month, in record numbers, WTTW audiences bid a fond farewell to *Downton Abbey*—the March 6 series finale reached 360,000 households in the area, with more than 80,000 local video views in the first month of the season alone. On the afternoon of the finale, several hundred diehard fans attended a special reception and screening at the Chicago History Museum, an emotion-filled sneak preview of the episode in the museum's Rubloff Auditorium. There were also several *Downton*-related retrospectives.

In an annual tradition, WTTW once again produced a new cross-platform documentary, hosted by Geoffrey Baer, on the year's winner of the Richard H. Driehaus Prize at the University of Notre Dame, *Architect Scott Merrill: The Power of Simplicity*. As always, the special's robust website took audiences beyond the program, including images of Merrill's work, a career timeline, web-exclusive video, examples of the architectural styles who influenced him, and a place to watch the show.

Also in March, WTTW welcomed astronaut Scott Kelly home from *A Year in Space*; premiered a new Rick Steves special,



Scott Merrill: *The Power of Simplicity*



Partygoers at the *Downton Abbey* finale screening, Chicago History Museum

*European Easter*; presented PBS *NewsHour*'s in-depth coverage of Super Tuesday and other primary elections; hopped on *Trains Around North America*; brought back *Grantchester* and *Mr. Selfridge* for new seasons; and premiered a new miniseries narrated by Liam Neeson, *1916: The Irish Rebellion*. Online, art lovers got to check in to Van Gogh's Bedroom, an Airbnb replica connected with the Art Institute's Van Gogh exhibition.

As the month ended, *Check, Please!* marked its 15th anniversary with a celebration at Lagunitas Brewery. Executive Producer David Manilow and all three hosts of the show were present, along with performers from the Kit Kat Lounge, fans, and numerous restaurants reviewed over the course of the series.

On WFMT, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra returned for a weekly series; audiences enjoyed a sultry film noir version of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* on *Live from the Met*; guest conductor Nicholas Kraemer led the Chicago Symphony in the complete cycle of Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos*; No Fuss and Feathers came to *Folkstage*; and *Relevant Tones* featured Aaron Jay Kernis and eighth blackbird. Online, users were introduced to trailblazing women composers of the past and heard the five favorite classical works of actress and comedian Retta (*Parks and Recreation*). Finally, acclaimed bass-baritone Eric Owens, prior to his stint at Lyric Opera, performed the final scene of Wagner's *Die Walküre* with Alan Gilbert and the New York Philharmonic.





The three hosts of *Check, Please!* – Catherine De Orio, Alpina Singh, and Amanda Puck – at the 15th anniversary celebration at Lagunitas Brewing Company



A partygoer with “Lady Mary” at the *Downton Abbey* finale screening, Chicago History Museum



Jeremy Piven as Mr. Selfridge



*Grantchester* Season 2 on Masterpiece





*Live from the Met: Manon Lescaut*



*eighth blackbird on WFMT*



*Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Broadcasts: Nicholas Kraemer  
conducts the Brandenburg  
Concertos*



10 Homes that Changed America: Geoffrey Baer at Marina City





# April 2016

April saw the national premiere of a new three-part national special several years in the making: *10 that Changed America*, hosted by Geoffrey Baer. This sweeping multi-platform initiative focused on 10 Homes, 10 Parks, and 10 Towns that reflect our nation's history, values, ingenuity, and hopes for the future – manmade wonders they profoundly affect our daily lives. The website, which is really 40 microsites, including content from Geoffrey's previous national special, *10 Buildings that Changed America*, includes a dizzying array of images, history, web-exclusive video, quizzes, curriculums, timelines, infographics, more notable locales in each category, each segment in its entirety, and much more.

Also this month, the two-part Ken Burns biography of baseball great Jackie Robinson, and two more Ken Burns films returned: *JAZZ* and *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. President Rafael Correa was interviewed by *Chicago Tonight* in advance of *Ecuador: The Royal Tour*. British drama flourished, with new episodes of *Call the Midwife*, *Father Brown*, *Death in Paradise*, and a new detective series, *Luther*, starring Idris Elba. A homegrown talk program and website, *The Interview*



10 that Changed



10 Parks that Changed America: Geoffrey Baer in Central Park

*Show* with Mark Bazer, premiered, and WTTW aired profiles of Pope (now Saint) John Paul, Prince Phillip, and Wallis Simpson, and the young diarist Anne Frank. And *Soundstage* returned with country superstar Toby Keith, taped in WTTW's Grainger Studio. On WTTW.com, *Chicago Tonight* stories included such diverse topics as the one-day teachers strike, birdcalls, the death of music icon Prince, the Zika virus, and much more.

WFMT marked the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare with a birthday celebration on April 23; audiences enjoyed a variety of music and digital content related to his amazing dramatic output. April Fool's Day included a special from the comedic violin-piano duo Igudesman & Joo, *You Just Have to Laugh*. *Live from the Met* broadcasts that month included new productions of Strauss's *Elektra*, Donizetti's *Roberto Devereaux*, Verdi's *Otello* and *Simon Boccanegra*, and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Brazilian guitarists The Assad Brothers were featured on *Relevant Tones* with Seth Boustead, the Chicago Symphony presented Esa-Pekka Salonen conducting *Four Legends from the Kalevala* by Sibelius, Rich Warren hosted a special installment of *Folkstage* offsite, and Kerry Frumkin welcomed Chicago's Haymarket Opera Company to *Live from WFMT*.

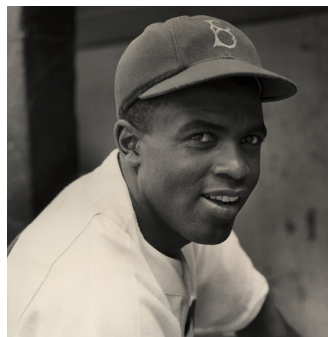
On WFMT.com, users discovered that rocker Alice Cooper was reinventing Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* for the 21st century, and learned "the secrets to heavenly singing" from conductor Peter Phillips, founder of the Tallis Scholars.



**April** 2016



*Soundstage: Toby Keith in Concert*



*Jackie Robinson, a Ken Burns film*



*Frontline: Children of Syria*



*The Interview Show with Mark Bazer*



*Phil Ponce interviews Rafael Correa, President of Ecuador, on Chicago Tonight*





The Assad brothers appeared on WFMT's *Relevant Tones*



*Live from the Met: Otello*



Igudesman & Joo: *You Just Have to Laugh*



Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts the Chicago Symphony Orchestra







# May 2016

Notable this month on WTTW were three new installments of *Soundstage* featuring country star Jason Isbell and an all-star tribute to George Harrison. Also premiering was Albany Park Theater Project: *Feast*, an exciting stage production taped by WTTW at the Goodman Theatre. Also, Kenneth Branagh returned as Henning Mankell's brooding Swedish detective Kurt Wallander; diners enjoyed more revealing webisodes in David Manilow's *Chat, Please!*; *American Masters* profiled rock legend Janis Joplin; *Nature* trekked to Canada to *Meet the Coywolf*; and in a three-part series, *Genius*, physicist Stephen Hawking explored life's big questions. The students who took part in the *National Geographic Bee* answered some big questions, too.

In advance of Memorial Day, the local documentary *Heroes on Deck: World War II on Lake Michigan* shared the untold story of a secret U.S. Navy pilot training mission, and recovery of its aircraft. That month's community screening at the Chicago Cultural Center was the documentary *10 Acres in Chicago: Cabrini Green*. Online, *Chicago Tonight* covered such diverse stories as the Vivian Maier lawsuit; regulation of Uber, Lyft, and Airbnb; transgender access to public restrooms; the world's oldest aquarium fish at the Shedd; and more.

May commenced on WFMT with the opening night performance of Rodgers & Hammerstein's sparkling Broadway



Janis Joplin: *American Masters*



Albany Park Theater Project: *Feast*

smash *The King and I*, the grand finale of Lyric Opera's 2015-16 season. Audiences also heard the season finale from the Metropolitan Opera, Mozart's comedy *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. Jeremy Denk performed at the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, and the *PianoForte Salon Series* concert that month featured pianist Nicholas Phillips.

WFMT's Levin Studio welcomed Claire Aebersold and Ralph Neiweem to *Live from WFMT* to present Debussy's arrangement of *Le Mer* for two pianos; also appearing on the series that month were the Spektral Quartet and Civitas. There were also live installments of *Impromptu* with pianist Marc-André Hamelin, and with chamber musicians from the Midsummer's Music Festival. Throughout the month on weekday mornings, Peter Van De Graaff shared some favorite "Hidden Gems" – a collection of little-known and fascinating works written by composers whose names are not necessarily top-of-mind to most classical music fans. Online, opera fans were treated to a feature about Minnesota Opera's world premiere of Stephen King's *The Shining*, and a profile of young composer Mohammed Fairouz and his involvement in international politics.





Mona Golabek, Willesden Lane Mother’s Day Special on WFMT



Jay Shefsky hosts an On the Table event



Heroes on Deck: World War II on Lake Michigan

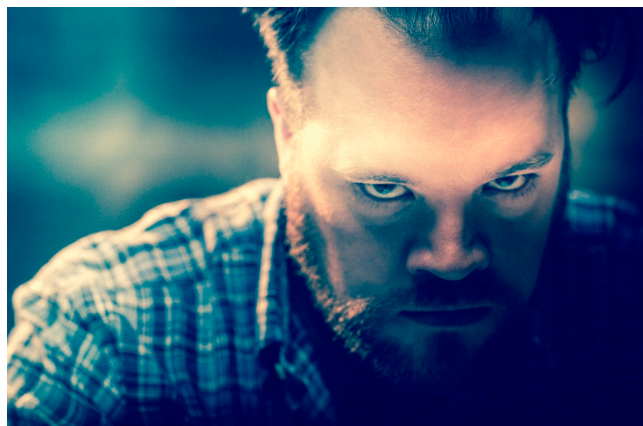


Masterpiece Mystery! Wallander with Kenneth Branagh





Lyric Opera of Chicago: Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King and I*



WFMT web story: Brian Mulligan in *The Shining* at Minnesota Opera



Duo pianists Claire Aebersold and Ralph Neiweem on *Live from WFMT*



Pianist Jeremy Denk, Gilmore International Keyboard Festival







# Celebration 2016

On Wednesday, May 11, WTTW and WFMT held the organization's annual gala; this year's theme was *Chicago in Bloom*. The evening's dedicated and hard-working event chairs Renée and Lester Crown and Jo and Newt Minow devised a magical and unforgettable experience for the generous supporters who attended.

As they arrived, the event's 500 guests posed for photos with an energetic Nature Cat, and then moved on to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the flower-bedecked Grainger Studio (floral displays courtesy of Kehoe Designs), and enjoyed a highlight reel of notable television and radio clips from throughout the year, plus some special previews. The classical comedic duo Igudesman & Joo, actress and singer Kate Micucci (the voice of Daisy the bunny in *Nature Cat*), and Phil Ponce, Alexandra and John Nichols Chief Correspondent and Host of *Chicago Tonight*, and his two sons, Anthony and Dan Ponce, teamed up to provide a fun and entertaining program on the Grainger stage.

Immediately following, everyone ventured outdoors to an elegant dinner under the stars in a large transparent tent with



Kay and Jim Mabie with Reese and Debbie Marcusson

white accents. Jewell Events Catering provided the cuisine, accompanied by libations from Terlato Wines. The dinner commenced with remarks by WTTW Chairman Jim Mabie and President and CEO Dan Schmidt. The crowd departed with smiles and some special gifts, including delectable cupcakes from Swirlz Cupcakes, loose green tea from Julius Meinl, a miniature Nature Cat, and more.

Lead Sponsor for *Chicago in Bloom* was BMO Harris Bank. The event raised more than \$1 million to support quality programming on WTTW and WFMT.



Jo and Newt Minow with Nature Cat



Igudesman & Joo with Peter and Jane McNitt



**Celebration 2016**



Clockwise from upper left: Dan Schmidt, Lester Crown, Julie Schmidt, Renée Crown



Floral arrangement at dinner



Igudesman & Joo performing on the Grainger Studio stage

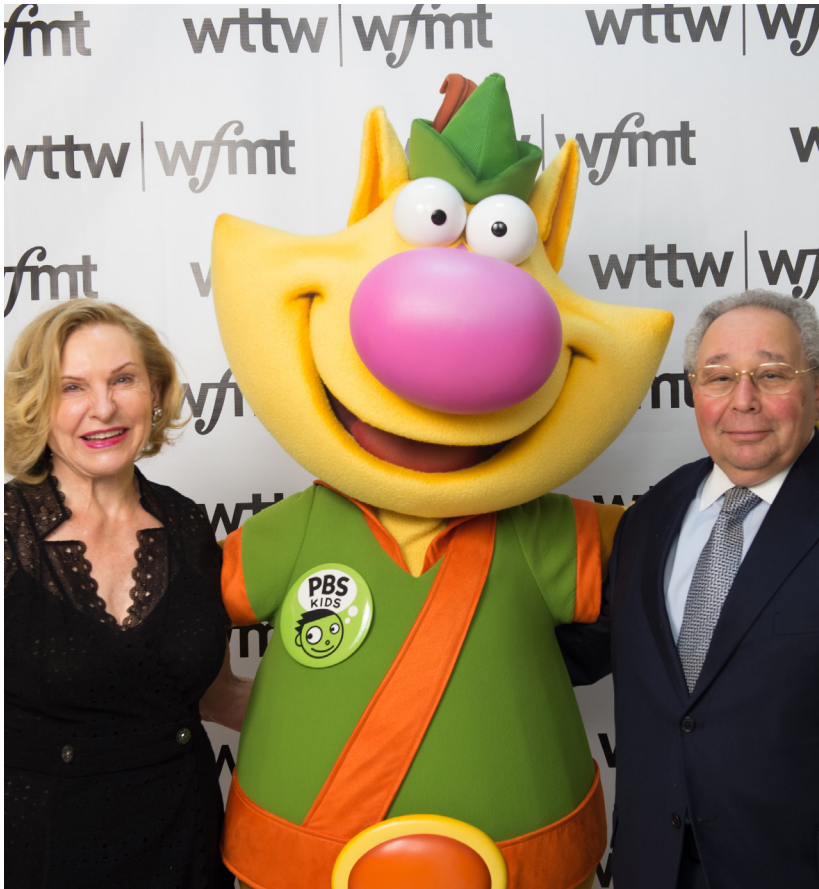


Performer Kate Micucci and ukelele



Dan, Phil, and Anthony Ponce serenade the crowd





Virginia and Norm Bobins with Nature Cat



WTTW/WFMT President and CEO Dan Schmidt speaks at dinner.



The audience in Grainger Studio enjoying the show



The performers in the show's finale



*Masterpiece Mystery! Endeavour Morse*



60

Annual Report • 2016



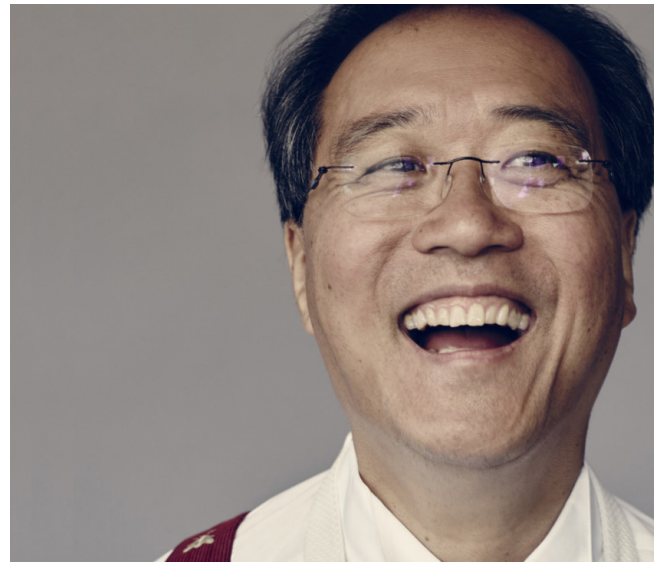
# June 2016

As fiscal 2016 came full circle and summer commenced, WFMT brought audiences the first of the season's 11 Grant Park Music Festival broadcasts, most from Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. The opening night performance featured pianists Fabio Bidini and Andrew von Oeyen and the Grant Park Orchestra under the direction of Carlos Kalmar. Later in the month, pianist Johu Pohjonen joined the GPO for a concert featuring works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Chopin, and Rouse.

Also, WFMT presented a new season of *The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival* and encore broadcasts from Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2015-16 season. A cycle of Beethoven piano sonatas was featured on *Live from WFMT* with Matthew Hagle, Susan Merdinger, David Yonan, and Ben Fried. Guest conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen led a "mostly Ravel" performance that featured opera stars Kate Royal and Eric Owens, along with the Chicago Symphony Chorus and the Anima Young Singers of Greater Chicago. Rich Warren welcomed Mustard's Retreat and Scott Ainslie to *Folkstage*, and online, users enjoyed a quiz related to J.S. Bach, a story on classical musicians who are "out and proud," and interviews with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Broadway star Kristin Chenoweth, and innovative composer Philip Glass.



Pritzker Pavilion, Grant Park Music Festival



Cellist Yo-Yo Ma

On WTTW, 10 outstanding area high school teachers received this year's Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching; Endeavour Morse returned for a new season on *Masterpiece Mystery*, and two new British drama series premiered: *Dancing on the Edge* and *The Tunnel*. A three-part series explored the history of *The Greeks*; audiences went to the Arctic to observe *The Great Polar Bear Feast*; and *9 Months that Made You* examined our time in the womb prior to birth. Carol Burnett revealed her favorite sketches from her long-running variety series; *Great Performances* celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Joan Baez; The Kingston Trio and The Highwaymen were remembered; and The Piano Guys received the *Soundstage* treatment with a performance taped at Colorado's Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

WTTW also celebrated LGBT Pride Month with a variety of relevant content on-air and online, including *The Boy in the Dress*, a new *Vicious* special starring Derek Jacobi and Ian McKellan, an encore presentation of WTTW's *Out & Proud in Chicago* with Jane Lynch, and a *Chicago Tonight* story provided a rundown of the city's related events. Web visitors read stories about the America's Cup in Chicago, cancer research, reactions to the Orlando, Florida mass shooting, the CPS budget crisis, and more.



**June 2016**



*Great Performances: Joan Baez 75th Birthday Celebration*



*Dancing on the Edge*



*9 Months That Made You*



Golden Apple Award winning teacher Todd Katz



*The Piano Guys at Red Rocks*





*Folkstage: Mustard's Retreat*



Kristin Chenoweth



Pianist Matthew Hagle on *Live from WFMT*



*Folkstage: Scott Ainslie*







# Community Engagement

## American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen!

WTTW's *American Graduate* initiative has continued to raise awareness of the high school dropout crisis in Chicago across a variety of platforms. This year, WTTW partnered with the Institute for Juvenile Research at University of Illinois Chicago to develop the *Graduation Starts Now* campaign, highlighting positive things that parents and caregivers can do in the early years to keep kids on track to high school graduation and future success. 12 public service announcements were produced along with additional research-based resources that were distributed at conferences and community events throughout the year. WTTW also participated in the all-day national *American Graduate Day* broadcast, providing 13 locally produced interviews and packages recognizing organizations and individuals who provide services and resources.

## WTTW Kids Readers Are Leaders Tour

In 2015-16, the WTTW Kids Readers are Leaders program educated more children, parents, grandparents and caregivers than ever before. This literacy outreach program was designed to reach children between the ages of 3 and 8, many of whom live in under-served areas of Chicago where educational materials are scarce. WTTW engaged audiences at more than 35



Guests from Off the Street Club get a tour of the *Chicago Tonight* set from Carmen Schmidt

Readers are Leaders events, which this year included performances at the Evanston Lit Fest, Printer's Row Lit Fest, and the 57th Street Book Fair. Every child who attended a WTTW Kids Readers are Leaders event received a special WTTW Kids goody bag with learning materials, offers from supporters, a special gift certificate for complimentary produce at ALDI, and a brand new book.

## WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van

For nine years, the WTTW Kids Great Food Fan Van program has educated and entertained thousands of children, parents, grandparents, and caregivers throughout seven Chicagoland counties at grocery stores including Whole Foods Market, Jewel-Osco, Mariano's, Brookhaven Marketplace, Sunset Foods, Ultra Foods, and Strack & Van Til. This year, even more retail partners jumped on board, including Pete's Fresh Market, Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market, and Caputo's. Every Great Food Fan Van event included healthy food education and sampling, stretching exercises, singing, dancing, educational games, and one-on-one health guidance, and a visit with PBS Kids' character Arthur inside the store at the end of each event.



Partygoers at the *Downton Abbey* finale screening, Chicago History Museum



## Community Engagement

### The Grandparent Connection

This was year four of The Grandparent Connection outreach program, which brought children between the ages of 7 and 9 from a nearby school or day-camp together with seniors inside a senior living community. During each hour-long program, WTTW integrated stretching and movement activities, collaborative storytelling, lessons about nutritious eating and healthy habits, interactive sing-alongs, and fun games that helped to enhance literacy skills in both age groups. These interactions reduced isolation, connected seniors to their community, and provided positive stimulation for those suffering from dementia and other cognitive impairments. Averaging more than 50 senior attendees per event, the program served more than 300 seniors this year, and more than 450 students.

### The Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching

For the 30th consecutive year, in November WTTW produced and aired this annual awards ceremony, honoring ten outstanding teachers from schools throughout the Chicago area. In addition to a trophy and valuable prizes (including an Apple computer and a sabbatical), each teacher was featured in an interstitial which included revealing footage shot at the school and heartwarming testimonials from students and parents. This year, the awards show, taped at WTTW's Grainger Studio and hosted by Geoffrey Baer, featured the best pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers from the city and surrounding suburbs.



Kids and fruit at a WTTW Great Food Fan Van event



Miss Lori and Curious George headline a WTTW Readers Are Leaders event

### Public Events

WTTW and WFMT hosted public events in connection with our content throughout the year. Among these were monthly *Independent Lens* community screenings at the Chicago Cultural Center, part of a partnership with ITVS, many of which included panel discussions. There were also author luncheons at the Union League Club, and several public screening events, including a *10 that Changed* preview and discussion at the Chicago History Museum, where WTTW also hosted an emotional *Downton Abbey* series finale party and screening; and a tour of the station with young members of the Off the Street Club. Members from both organizations hosted *On the Table* events, part of the Chicago Community Trust's city-wide initiative to bring groups of community-minded citizens together for a friendly meal and constructive discourse.

WFMT presented an all-day *Immersion* event in July at the North Park Covenant Church: *Unknown Gems* with Peter van de Graaff and Lawrence Rapchak, music director of the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra. Throughout the year, WFMT also welcomed guests to the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio for a variety of live broadcasts in the *Impromptu*, *Ryan Opera Center Recitals*, *Folkstage*, and *Live from WFMT* series.





Arthur and a family at a WTTW Great Food Fan Van event



Kids and seniors at a Grandparent Connection event



Miss Lori leads exercises at a WTTW Great Food Fan Van event



70 Acres in Chicago: Cabrini Green – panel at a Chicago Cultural Center screening



# FISCAL 2016 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

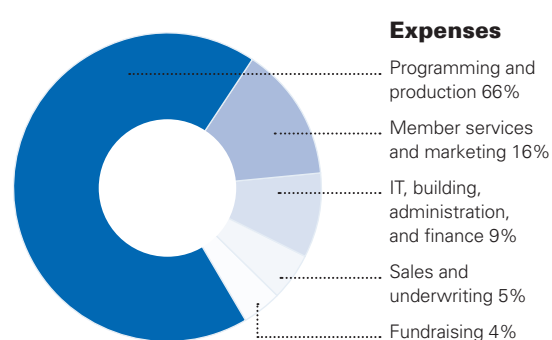
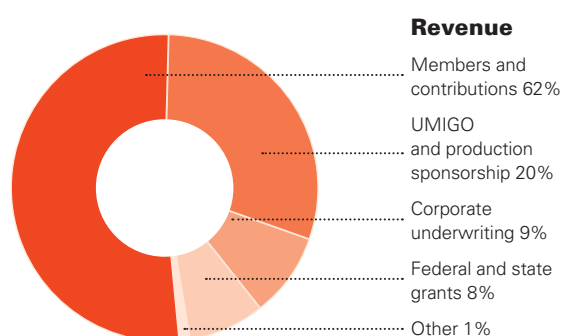
(in thousands)

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and investments	\$40,481
Accounts and pledges receivable, net	8,347
Property and equipment, net	17,824
Other assets	1,815
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$68,467</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$3,731
Long-term notes payable	19,300
Other liabilities	4,145
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$27,176</b>
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	\$20,261
Restricted	21,030
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$41,291</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$68,467</b>

<b>Revenue</b>	
Members and contributions	\$29,246
UMIGO and production sponsorship	9,470
Corporate underwriting and advertising	4,226
Federal and state grants	3,576
Other	800
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$47,318</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Programming and production	\$31,086
Member services and marketing	7,467
Sales and underwriting	2,538
Fundraising	2,002
IT, building, administration, and finance	4,185
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$47,278</b>
<b>Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities</b>	<b>40</b>

\*Reflects \$2.5 million in non-cash depreciation expense

Statement of Activity\* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016





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(GIFTS FROM JULY 2015 TO JUNE 2016)

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*Arthur & George on Masterpiece*

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*A Year in Space*

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(GIFTS FROM JULY 2015 TO JUNE 2016)

### LEADER

#### \$100,000 AND ABOVE

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 The Inland Real Estate Group of Companies, Inc.

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 Allstate Insurance Company  
 The Chicago Cubs  
 The City Club of Chicago  
 Exelon  
 GCM Grosvenor  
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 Pritzker Military Museum & Library

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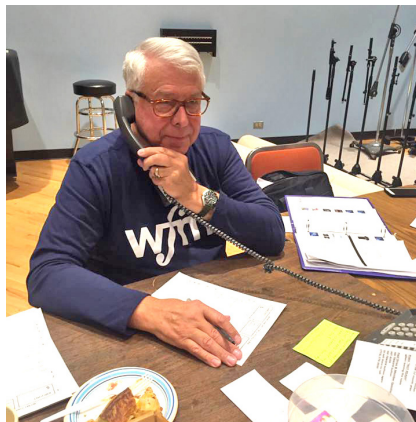
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Anonymous (1)  
 James Ascareggi Trust  
 Estate of Robert Beck  
 Nelson D. Cornelius Trust  
 Marianne Deson Trust  
 Estate of Jeanette Croonquist Edwards  
 Frank B. Foster Charitable Trust  
 Evelyn Frank Trust  
 Estate of Helen M. Fredrickson  
 Estate of Susan H. Glon  
 Harold S. Gray Family Trust  
 Elaine H. Hansen Trust



*Albany Park Theater Project: Feast*

Estate of Ingrid W. Hibbeler  
 Sylvia M. Hirsch Trust  
 Edward F. Kloubec Trust  
 Anne Powers Koller Trust  
 Jeffrey W. Korman Trust  
 Melvin Magee Trust  
 Estate of Margaret Plummer  
 Estate of Richard D. Primdahl  
 Janet M. Relos Trust  
 J. Lucille Repka Trust  
 Philip F. Schoch Trust  
 Estate of Dorothy Schnadig  
 Estate of Denise Selz  
 Estate of Sam Serio  
 Berenice Sexauer Trust  
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 Mary Ella Strane Family Trust  
 Rebecca Swedler Trust  
 Estate of Bertha Tjernagel  
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 Robert Yaseen Trust  
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# THANK YOU!



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